

Amendments To The Drawings:

The attached drawing sheets include changes to FIGS. 1-4 for the examiner's approval and are requested to replace the original sheets of FIGS. 1-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s) of FIGS. 1-4

APPENDIX OF ATTACHMENTS

**Replacement Sheets of FIGS. 1-4
(a total of 4 drawing sheets)**

**Substitute Specification
(Clean and Interlineated copies)**

Statement That No New Matter Was Added In Substitute Specification

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are pending before this amendment. By the present amendment, claims 2-3 are canceled without prejudice; and claim 1 is amended. No new matter has been added.

In the office action (page 2), the examiner has required submittal of new corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) to replace the original FIGS. 1-4, which the examiner considered "fuzzy and unclear". In response, the existing photographic style drawings have been substituted with new corrected manually drafted drawings, which the applicant believes to be in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d).

In the office action (page 2), the examiner has required that a substitute specification in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52(a) and 37 CFR 1.52(b) and a statement that the substitute specification includes no new matter be provided. In response, a substitute specification has been submitted in order to overcome the objection to the specification.

In the office action (page 2), claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,434,924 (Jampolsky), and claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,434,924 (Jampolsky) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0095564 (Stuart et al.).

In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's objections and rejections by submitting the present responsive amendment to the Examiner's objections and rejections, in which relevant claims have been corrected appropriately,

specifically in which claim 1 has been amended and claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled.

In order to distinctively claim the features of claim 1 claimed in the present invention over the Examiner's citation (Jampolsky), the features of the term "electric wires" have been amended to recite:

--wherein the digital hearing aid cell and the ear cell are connected via three external electric wires, the three external electric wires comprising signal, electric power, and ground wires, to adjust a time delay parameter and thus enhance a directional performance of the hearing aid--

Support for this amendment to claim 1 is found at least in the substitute specification page 6, lines 1-4; and original claim 3. The applicant respectfully submits that nowhere in Jampolsky teaches or suggests the limitations of claim 1 as amended above.

Jampolsky does not expressly disclose the digital hearing aid cell and the ear cell are connected via external electric wires. In particular, Jampolsky does not teach or suggest the claimed --three external electric wires comprising signal, electric power, and ground wires--, which connect the hearing aid cell and the ear cell in the present invention. Further, Jampolsky does not expressly disclose the time delay parameter in the digital amplifier, which may be adjusted to enhance the directional performance of the hearing aid. That is, according to the present invention, a time delay parameter in a digital amplifier is designed and fabricated to adjust the directional performance in a hearing aid (substitute specification page 7, lines 14-21).

In addition, the digital hearing aid according to the present invention includes two microphones, one being for the healthy ear side hearing aid cell and the other

being for the unhealthy ear side ear cell (substitute specification page 6, lines 11-14).

To clarify this aspect of the present invention, claim 1 has been further amended to recite:

--a digital ITE (In-The-Ear) type hearing aid cell including a digital amplifier, a front microphone, and a receiver in one healthy ear; and an ear cell including a rear microphone in the other troubled ear--

Support for this amendment to claim 1 is found at least in the substitute specification page 6, lines 11-14 and original claim 2.

The two digital hearing aid cells for use in the digital hearing aid according to the present invention are connected with each other via signal, power, and ground wires to adjust a time delay parameter. As a result, a time delay effect is obtained between the two microphones, so that a wearer of the digital hearing aid can better hear sound which comes from the side opposing the healthy ear, that is, from the troubled ear side (substitute specification page 1, lines 11-19).

In contradistinction, Jampolsky does not teach the two digital hearing aid cells for use in the digital hearing aid as claimed in the present invention, which are connected with each other via signal, power, and ground wires to adjust a time delay parameter. Accordingly, Jampolsky does not teach each and every limitation of the amended claim 1 and an indication of allowable content is respectfully requested with respect to claim 1.

With regards to claim 2, the examiner cited the Stuart reference in his rejection of claim 2, Stuart does not expressly disclose a hearing aid including a switch, a digital interface connection terminal, and a battery door in the healthy ear hearing aid cell, and

additionally, neither Stuart nor Jampolsky teaches a microphone included in the unhealthy ear hearing aid cell, for use as an adjustment technique of a time delay parameter occurring between two microphones respectively included in the healthy ear hearing aid cell and the unhealthy ear hearing aid cell.

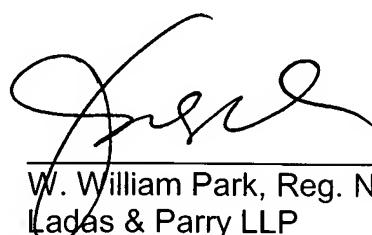
Regardless, the pending claims 2 and 3 are cancelled without prejudice to render any issues relating to the present rejection of these claims moot. Withdrawal of the rejections with regards to claims 2 and 3 is respectfully requested.

For the reasons set forth above, the applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, now pending in this application, is in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicits an indication of allowable subject matter.

This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: NOV. 12, 2009



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